Serial No: 09/9

09/992,432

Attorney Docket No.: 321.068

Examiner Qin, Yixing

Art Unit: 2622

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of digitally producing a composite image that

comprises a plurality of subcomponent images, comprising the steps of:

a. defining a length and a width of each of a plurality of discrete digital

subcomponent entities to substantially equal the length and width of each of a

plurality of individual substrates to be printed upon;

b. defining a length and a width of a composite image;

c. defining at least one width of assembly spacing that is required to be present

between each of said plurality of discrete digital subcomponent entities;

d. sizing a digital image to comprise a length and width that is equal to a length

and width of said composite image;

e, decomposing said digital image into said plurality of discrete digital

subcomponent entities, wherein each of said plurality of discrete digital

subcomponent entities has a length and width as defined, and wherein a sum

of said plurality of discrete digital subcomponent entities plus a sum of widths

of -assembly spacing that is required between each of said plurality of

discrete digital subcomponent entities equals said length and width of said

digital image;

f. tendering said plurality of discrete digital subcomponent entities to a printer;

and 1

g. printing each of said plurality of discrete digital subcomponent entities upon a

corresponding substrate of said plurality of individual substrates by means of

said printer, to produce a plurality of discrete printed subcomponent entities.

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2. (Original) A method of digitally printing a composite image that comprises a

plurality of subcomponent images as described in Claim 1, further comprising the

step of assembling said plurality of discrete printed subcomponent entities

according to said composite image.

3. (Original) A method of digitally printing a composite image that comprises a plurality

of subcomponent images as described in Claim 1, further comprising the step of

printing sub-component orientation marks onto said substrate.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of digitally producing a composite image that

comprises a plurality of subcomponent images, comprising the steps of:

a. defining a length and a width of each of a plurality of discrete digital

subcomponent entities to equal the length and width of each of a plurality of

individual substrates;

b. defining a length and a width of a composite image:

c. defining at least one width of assembly spacing that is required to be present

between each of said plurality of discrete digital subcomponent entities;

d. sizing a digital image to comprise a length and width that is equal to a length

and width of said composite image;

e. decomposing said digital image into said plurality of discrete digital

subcomponent entities, wherein each of said plurality of discrete digital

subcomponent entities has a length and width as defined, and wherein a sum

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of said plurality of discrete digital subcomponent entities plus a sum of widths of assembly spacing that is required between each of said plurality of discrete digital subcomponent entities equals said length and width of said digital image;

- f. tendering said plurality of discrete digital subcomponent entities to a printer;
- g. printing each of said plurality of discrete digital subcomponent entities upon at least one of a plurality of intermediate substrates at least one substrate by means of said printer with an ink comprising sublimation dyes, to produce a plurality of discrete printed subcomponent entities; and
- h. applying heat to each of said plurality of intermediate substrates and transferring each of said plurality of discrete printed subcomponent entities from said plurality of intermediate substrates at least one substrate to a corresponding substrate of each of said plurality of individual substrates to produce a plurality of discrete transferred subcomponent entities.
- 5. (Original) A method of digitally printing a composite image that comprises a plurality of subcomponent images as described in Claim 4, further comprising the step of assembling said plurality of discrete transferred subcomponent entities according to said composite image.
- 6. (Original) A method of digitally printing a composite image that comprises a plurality of subcomponent images as described in Claim 4, further comprising the

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step of printing sub-component orientation marks onto said at least one

substrate.

A method of digitally printing a composite image that comprises a plurality 7. (New)

of subcomponent images as described in Claim 1, wherein said printer is an ink

jet printer.

8. (New) A method of digitally printing a composite image that comprises a plurality

of subcomponent images as described in Claim 4, wherein said printer is an ink

jet printer.

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